

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 00923 250741Z

12-R
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 037261
R 250638Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, VN
SUBJECT: THICH THIEN CHAU

REF: STATE 016856

1. DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO USE INFO THAT THICH THIEN CHAU, ONE OF INVITEES TO FORTHCOMING ANTI-VIETNAM ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL) HAS BEEN DISAVOWED BY AN QUANG CHURCH WHOSE PARIS-BASED REP HE CLAIMS TO BE.

2. THIEN CHAU HAS LIVED IN PARIS AT LEAST SINCE SUMMER 1968. AS OF LATE 1969, HE WAS CLAIMING TO BE PRESIDENT OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST ASSN (OVBA) AND REP OF AN QUANG BUDDHISTS ALTHOUGH AN QUANG HAD BY THEN BROKEN CONNECTION WITH HIM. OFFICIAL AN QUANG REP IN PARIS NOW IS THICH NHAT HANH. FORMERLY, BOTH THIEN CHAU AND NHAT HANH REPRESENTED AN QUANG IN PARIS, NHAT HANH REPORTEDLY AS HEAD OF OVBA AND THIEN CHAU UNDER HIM AS HEAD OF BUDDHISTS IN FRANCE.

3. AN QUANG MILITANT LEADER THICH TRI QUANG HAS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THIEN CHAU WAS DUPED BY COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AND DEVIATED FROM AN QUANG POLITICAL LINE. MODERATE AN QUANG SENATORS TRAN QUONG THAU AND TON THAT NIEM TOLD US THAT THIEN CHAU SEVERAL YEARS AHO BEGAN TO TAKE INCREASINGLY PRO-COMMUNIST POSITION AND AN QUANG DROPPED HIM, ASKING NHAT HANH TO PICK UP THIEN CHAU'S TITLE ALONG WITH HIS OWN PREVIOUS TITLE. THUS MEMBERS OF BOTH MAIN AN QUANG FACTIONS HERE
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 00923 250741Z

AGREE THAT AN QUANG HAS DROPPED THIEN CHAU AND FOR GOOD REASON.

4. THIEN CHAU, THEREFORE, CAN MAKE NO LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO
SPEAK FOR AN QUANG BUDDHISTS WHETHER IN WASHINGTON OR ANYWHERE
ELSE.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDDHISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON00923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750028-0948
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750120/aaaaarov.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 016856
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THICH THIEN CHAU
TAGS: PINR, VN, (THICH THIEN CHAU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006